

# County Snapshot

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California's northern-most coastal county, **Del Norte** is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the south by Humboldt County, on the east by Siskiyou County and to the north by Oregon.

Del Norte County's population is projected to reach 41,900 by 2020. This represents an increase of over 10,000 new residents or a 34 percent increase over the current population.

The 1999 annual average civilian labor force for Del Norte County was 9,800 with an unemployment rate of 8.0 percent. The state's annual average unemployment rate was 5.2 percent.

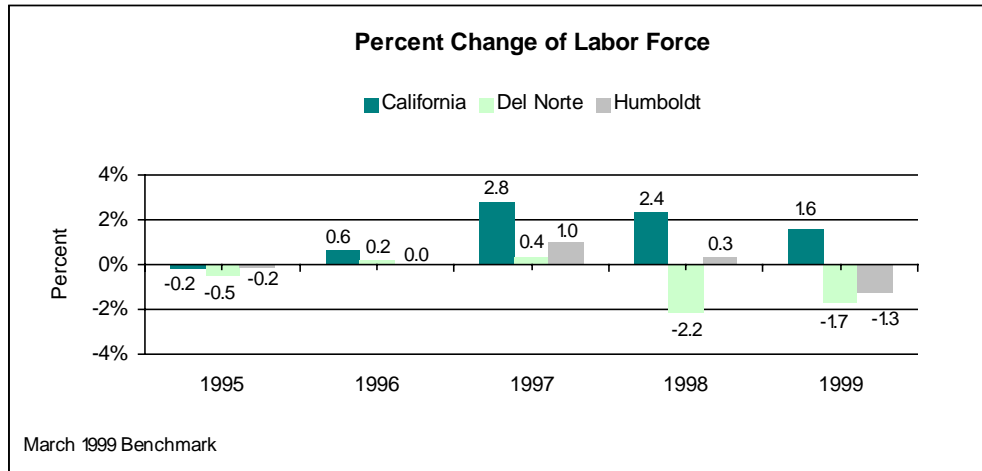
The government sector accounted for 40 percent of the employment in 1999 with the greatest concentration in state government. This predominance is due to the county's largest employer, Pelican Bay State Prison. The retail trade and services industries combined account for another 40 percent of the employment, supporting the strong tourism/recreation sector of the local economy.

The services industry will continue to be an important economic factor for Del Norte County with a projected growth rate of 27 percent for the forecast period, 1997- 2004. Construction is expected to increase over 26 percent and retail trade's projected growth is approximately 13 percent.

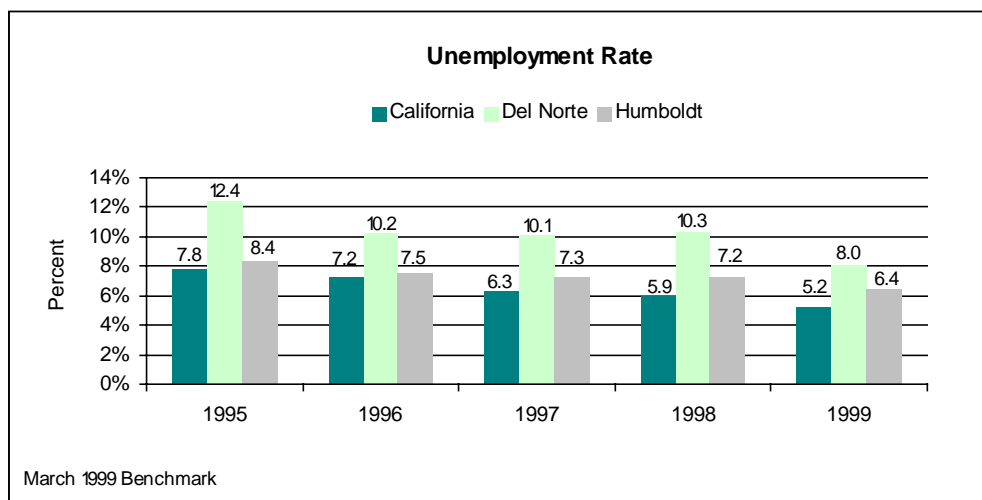
Despite fluctuations in the civilian labor force, Del Norte County experienced job growth in the 1999 nonfarm sector supported primarily by new jobs in services and government. Growth is expected to continue in most of the major industry sectors during the projection period.

## LABOR FORCE

From 1995 to 1999, Del Norte County experienced varying gains and losses in its annual average civilian labor force. The county's economic base shifted from a goods producing economy with manufacturing and logging interests dominating, to a service producing economy with services and government strongly influencing the labor market conditions. Both the declines in the timber industry and seasonal variations in a tourist-based economy contribute to the shifting employment patterns in both Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

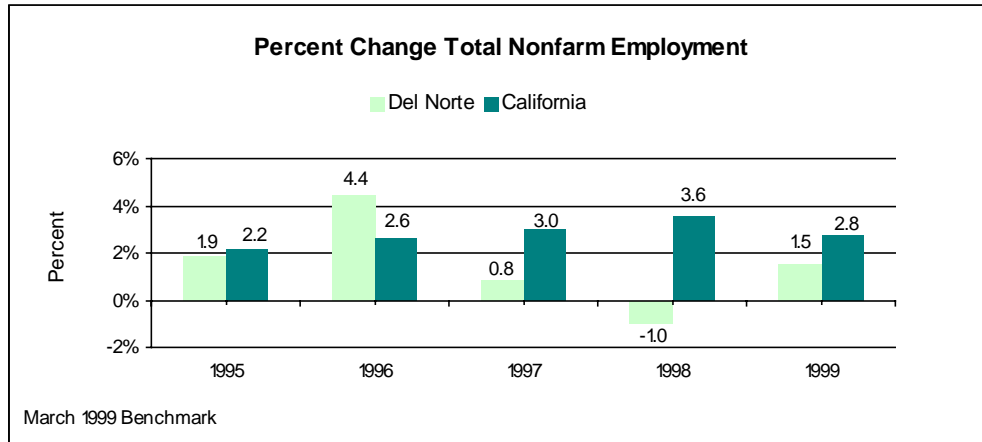


Del Norte County's annual average unemployment rate dropped 4.4 percentage points from 12.4 in 1995 to 8.0 in 1999. Neighboring Humboldt County also had declining unemployment rates over this period to reach 6.4 percent in 1999.

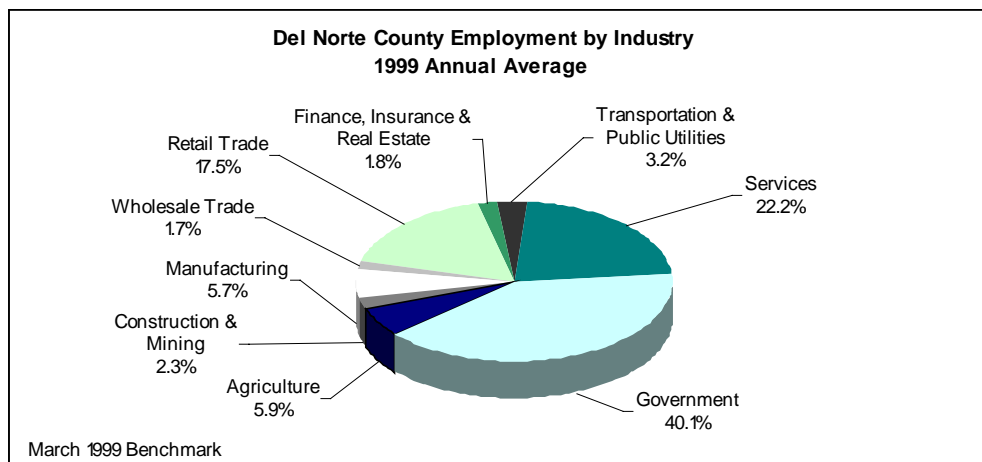


## INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

From 1995 to 1999, Del Norte County experienced gains in the nonagricultural industry employment with the exception of 1998. Declines in 1998 were due in part to job losses in manufacturing. The county's job growth in 1999 was 1.5 percent with the concentration of growth occurring primarily in services and government.



Government accounted for the greatest share of Del Norte County's total industry employment in 1999. Services and retail trade combined, accounted for another 40 percent. During the forecast period, 1997-2004, services, retail trade and construction are projected to account for over 90 percent of the growth in the county.



## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Del Norte County is projected to have many employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations. Projections for Del Norte County are combined with Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties and published as the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium projections.

Associated Occupations	<b>SERVICES</b> <b>1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 27.0%</b>
	<b>Registered Nurses</b> – 60 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.63
	<b>Amusement, Recreation Attendants</b> – 60 job openings. Perform any of a variety of attending duties at amusement or recreation facility. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.49
	<b>General Managers, Top Executives</b> – 50 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.73
	<b>Computer Support Specialist</b> – 50 job openings. Provide technical assistance and training to computer system users. They investigate and resolve computer software and hardware problems for users. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$21.04
	<b>First-Line Supervisor / Manager, Clerical ADM SUP</b> – 50 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of clerical and administrative support workers. Managers / Supervisors are generally found in smaller establishments where they perform both supervisory and management functions. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.14
Associated Occupations	<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> <b>1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 26.3%</b>
	<b>Carpenters</b> – 50 job openings. Perform the carpentry duties necessary to make or repair wooden structures, structural members, and fixtures and equipment. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.83
	<b>Highway Maintenance Workers</b> – 20 job openings. Maintain highways, municipal and rural roads, airport runways, and right-of-way in safe condition. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.25
	<b>Laborers, Landscaping / Groundskeeping</b> – 10 job openings. Maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. May work in nursery facility or at customer location. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks including, sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, and sprinkler installation. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.77
	<b>Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines</b> – 10 job openings. Repair and maintain mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors, used in construction, logging, and surface mining. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.35
	<b>Truck Drivers, Heavy</b> – 10 job openings. Drive tractor-trailer combinations or trucks with a capacity of more than three tons to transport and deliver goods, livestock, or materials in liquid, loose or packaged form. They may be required to unload trucks. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.58
Associated Occupations	<b>RETAIL TRADE</b> <b>1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 13.3%</b>
	<b>Cashiers</b> – 280 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.21
	<b>Salespersons, Retail</b> – 240 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.10
	<b>Food Preparation Workers</b> – 70 job openings. Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean and move supplies. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.79
	<b>Combined Food Preparation And Service Workers</b> – 70 job openings. Do both food preparation and food service. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.57
	<b>First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales</b> – 60 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.72

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:  
State of California  
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